

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-12 (Canceled).

13 (Currently Amended). An article comprising a medium for storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to:

develop a first representation of a current user query;
develop a second representation of a previous user query; and
determine whether the first representation includes only one of two types of variables, and if so, merge the first representation with the second representation to form a third representation; and
determine whether the first representation includes only a where variable and in such case use the second representation to form a third representation and insert the where variable into the second representation.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

15 (Original). The article of claim 13 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to determine whether the first representation has only a select variable, use the second representation to form a third representation and insert the select variable into the second representation.

16 (Original). The article of claim 13 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to determine whether neither a where or a select variable is contained in the first representation and in such case to make the in-third representation vector the same as second representation.

17 (Original). The article of claim 13 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to determine whether both a where variable and a select variable are contained in the first representation and if so, use the first representation to form the third representation and use the third representation as the second representation.

18 (Currently Amended). A method comprising:

developing a first representation from a current user query;

developing a second representation from a previous user query; and

determining whether said first representation includes only one of two variable types and if so, merging the first representation with the second representation to form the third representation; and

determining whether the first representation includes only a where variable and in such case using the second representation as the third representation and inserting the where variable into the second representation.

Claim 19 (Canceled).

20 (Original). The method of claim 18 including determining whether the first representation has only a select variable and if so, using the second representation as the third representation and inserting the select variable into the second representation.

21 (Original). The method of claim 18 including determining whether neither a where or a select variable is contained in the first representation and in such case, making the third representation the same as the second representation.

22 (Original). The method of claim 18 including determining whether both a where variable and a select variable are contained in the first representation and if so using the first representation to form the third representation and using the third representation as the second representation.

23 (Currently Amended). A system comprising:

a processor; and

a storage coupled to said processor, said storage storing software that develops a first representation from a current user query, develops a second representation from a previous user query, determines whether the first representation includes only one of two variable types and if so merges the first representation with the second representation to form a third representation, and determines whether the first representation includes only a where variable

and in such case, uses the second representation as the third representation and inserts the where variable into the second representation.

24 (Original). The system of claim 23 wherein said software develops a state vector representing the meaning of a spoken query, said state vector formed of a attribute, value pair with a non-recursive data structure as said value.

Claim 25 (Canceled).

26 (Original). The system of claim 23 including a speech recognizer and a speech synthesizer communicating with said software.

27 (Original). The system of claim 26 including a graphical user interface stored in said storage and synchronized to said software.

28 (Original). The system of claim 23 including an electronic programming guide application, said software creating a conversational speech responsive system.

29 (Original). The system of claim 23 wherein said system is a set-top box controlling a television receiver and implementing an electronic programming guide.

30 (Original). The system of claim 29 including a remote control unit coupled to said set-top box through a wireless interface.

31 (New). An article comprising a medium for storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to:

develop a first representation of a current user query;
develop a second representation of a previous user query;
determine whether the first representation includes only one of two types of variables, and if so, merge the first representation with the second representation to form a third representation; and

determine whether the first representation has only a select variable, use the second representation to form a third representation and insert the select variable into the second representation.

32 (New). The article of claim 31 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to determine whether the first representation includes only a where variable and in such case use the second representation to form a third representation and insert the where variable into the second representation.

33 (New). The article of claim 31 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to determine whether neither a where or a select variable is contained in the first representation and in such case to make the in-third representation vector the same as second representation.

34 (New). The article of claim 31 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to determine whether both a where variable and a select variable are contained in the first representation and if so, use the first representation to form the third representation and use the third representation as the second representation.

35 (New). An article comprising a medium for storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to:

develop a first representation of a current user query;
develop a second representation of a previous user query;
determine whether the first representation includes only one of two types of variables, and if so, merge the first representation with the second representation to form a third representation; and

determine whether neither a where or a select variable is contained in the first representation and in such case to make the in-third representation vector the same as second representation.

36 (New). The article of claim 35 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to determine whether the first representation includes only a where variable and in such case use the second representation to form a third representation and insert the where variable into the second representation.

37 (New). The article of claim 35 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to determine whether the first representation has only a select variable, use the second representation to form a third representation and insert the select variable into the second representation.

38 (New). The article of claim 35 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to determine whether both a where variable and a select variable are contained in the first representation and if so, use the first representation to form the third representation and use the third representation as the second representation.

39 (New). An article comprising a medium for storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to:

develop a first representation of a current user query;

develop a second representation of a previous user query;

determine whether the first representation includes only one of two types of variables, and if so, merge the first representation with the second representation to form a third representation; and

determine whether both a where variable and a select variable are contained in the first representation and if so, use the first representation to form the third representation and use the third representation as the second representation.

40 (New). The article of claim 39 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to determine whether the first representation includes only a where variable and in such case use the second representation to form a third representation and insert the where variable into the second representation.

41 (New). The article of claim 39 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to determine whether the first representation has only a select variable, use the second representation to form a third representation and insert the select variable into the second representation.

42 (New). The article of claim 39 further storing instructions that cause a processor-based system to determine whether neither a where or a select variable is contained in the first representation and in such case to make the in-third representation vector the same as second representation.

43 (New). A method comprising:

developing a first representation from a current user query;

developing a second representation from a previous user query;

determining whether said first representation includes only one of two variable types and if so, merging the first representation with the second representation to form the third representation; and

determining whether the first representation has only a select variable and if so, using the second representation as the third representation and inserting the select variable into the second representation.

44 (New). The method of claim 43 including determining whether the first representation includes only a where variable and in such case using the second representation as the third representation and inserting the where variable into the second representation.

45 (New). The method of claim 43 including determining whether neither a where or a select variable is contained in the first representation and in such case, making the third representation the same as the second representation.

46 (New). The method of claim 43 including determining whether both a where variable and a select variable are contained in the first representation and if so using the first representation to form the third representation and using the third representation as the second representation.

47 (New). A method comprising:

developing a first representation from a current user query;

developing a second representation from a previous user query;

determining whether said first representation includes only one of two variable types and if so, merging the first representation with the second representation to form the third representation; and

determining whether neither a where or a select variable is contained in the first representation and in such case, making the third representation the same as the second representation.

48 (New). The method of claim 47 including determining whether the first representation includes only a where variable and in such case using the second representation as the third representation and inserting the where variable into the second representation.

49 (New). The method of claim 47 including determining whether the first representation has only a select variable and if so, using the second representation as the third representation and inserting the select variable into the second representation.

50 (New). The method of claim 47 including determining whether both a where variable and a select variable are contained in the first representation and if so using the first representation to form the third representation and using the third representation as the second representation.

51 (New). A method comprising:

developing a first representation from a current user query;

developing a second representation from a previous user query;

determining whether said first representation includes only one of two variable types and if so, merging the first representation with the second representation to form the third representation; and

determining whether both a where variable and a select variable are contained in the first representation and if so using the first representation to form the third representation and using the third representation as the second representation.

52 (New). The method of claim 51 including determining whether the first representation includes only a where variable and in such case using the second representation as the third representation and inserting the where variable into the second representation.

53 (New). The method of claim 51 including determining whether the first representation has only a select variable and if so, using the second representation as the third representation and inserting the select variable into the second representation.

54 (New). The method of claim 51 including determining whether neither a where or a select variable is contained in the first representation and in such case, making the third representation the same as the second representation.